

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY M/CT: RPMYERS:NWH
APPROVED BY M/CT: AMB. HECK
USIA - MR. MCCLURE
ARA/AND - MR. COX
PC - MR. CAWLEY
S/S -S. GOLDSMITH

-----020101Z 029655 /64

O 020051Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ASEC, CASC, PINS, CO

SUBJECT: STARR KIDNAPPING: VARIOUS INITIATIVES

REF: BOGOTA 4660

1. WE VERY MUCH APPRECIATE EFFORT BEING MOUNTED (REFTEL)
BY COLOMBIAN RED CROSS (CRC) ON BEHALF OF MRS. JENSEN. WE
ALSO AGREE THAT EMBASSY SHOULD NOT PRESS CRC TOO HARD OR
TOO FREQUENTLY FOR REASONS CITED PARA 3 REFTEL.

2. WE HAVE INFORMED MRS. JENSEN OF MRS. ESCALLON'S DESIRE
TO COMMUNICATE WITH HER DURING HER IMPENDING VISIT TO
WASHINGTON. SINCE MRS. JENSEN IS IN EDMONDS, WASHING-
TON, WE ASSUME THAT MRS. ESCALLON'S CONTACT WITH HER WILL
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BE NECESSARILY CONFINED TO A PHONE CALL, BUT EVEN THAT WILL
BE A HELP.

3. ON THE OCCASION OF RICHARD'S 30TH BIRTHDAY JUNE 3,
MRS. JENSEN INTENDS TO GIVE PRESS CONFERENCE JUNE 2 AT HER
HOME IN EDMONDS; SHE WILL MAKE FOLLOWING APPEAL:
QUOTE: MORE THAN 15 WEEKS HAVE PASSED SINCE MY SON,

RICHARD STARR, A PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER, WAS TAKEN FROM HIS POST IN LA MACARENA, COLOMBIA. SINCE THAT TIME I HAVE RECEIVED MANY MESSAGES OF SYMPATHY FROM PEOPLE ALL OVER THE

UNITED STATES AND FROM COLOMBIA AND ELSEWHERE OVERSEAS. BUT I HAVE YET TO HEAR ANYTHING DIRECTLY FROM MY SON OR EVEN INDIRECTLY FROM OTHERS CONCERNING HIS WELFARE.

QUOTE: TOMORROW IS RICHARD'S 30TH BIRTHDAY. ON THIS OCCASION I APPEAL TO THE PEOPLE WHO ARE HOLDING RICHARD TO SET HIM FREE OR AT LEAST ALLOW HIM TO COMMUNICATE WITH HIS FAMILY. AS HIS MOTHER I WOULD BE PROFOUNDLY GRATEFUL FOR SOME WORD OF HIS WELL-BEING.

QUOTE: I ALSO APPEAL TO THOSE IN COLOMBIA WHO CAN BE OF HELP TO ME TO SEE TO IT THAT RICHARD RECEIVES THE PACK WHICH I HAVE TRIED TO SEND HIM THROUGH THE RED CROSS. I KNOW THAT THE PACK HAS BEEN DELIVERED TO THE COLOMBIAN RED CROSS AND I BELIEVE THAT THE MEDICINES AND WATERPROOF CLOTHING WHICH IT CONTAINS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR RICHARD'S SURVIVAL. I ALSO TRIED TO INCLUDE ENOUGH MEDICINE FOR HIM TO SHARE WITH OTHERS.

QUOTE: I PRAY THAT RICHARD WILL BE RELEASED SOON AND THAT HE WILL BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO HIS BOTANICAL FIELD WORK ON BEHALF OF THE COLOMBIAN PEOPLE. UNQUOTE.

4. AFTER MAKING APPEAL MRS. JENSEN WILL ANSWER QUESTIONS
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FOR APPROXIMATELY 15 MINUTES. WE ANTICIPATE THAT PRESS CONFERENCE WILL BE PICKED UP BY VOA AND PLAYED ON SPANISH LANGUAGE PROGRAMS BEAMED TO LATIN AMERICA ON OR ABOUT JUNE 3.

5. TEXTS OF LETTERS TO MRS. JENSEN FROM PRESIDENT CARTER AND MRS. CLARA EUGENIA LOPEZ WILL BE SENT SEPTTEL. HABIB

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